

GREAT AREA
SWEEPED OVERA \$5,000,000 Fire Came Upon
Houston, Texas, To-day

THOUSANDS ARE HOMELESS

Many Factories Were Destroyed, but Most of the Loss Was on Workmen's Houses—No Reports of Casualties Have Been Received as Yet.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 21.—Starting at midnight among the cottages near the tracks of the Southern Pacific-railroad and driven by a fierce wind, fire early today destroyed at least twenty-five squares of buildings in the residential district of the city, mostly workmen's cottages, although some large factories were wiped out. A conservative estimate of the loss is \$5,000,000. Included in the loss were many cotton compressors and much stored staple.

By the fire thousands were rendered homeless, but as yet no casualties have been reported. Relief work was promptly started, and there was no lack of food or shelter for the unfortunate people who were driven from their places of residence by the rapid spread of the flames. The fire was brought under control at 8 o'clock this forenoon, but the flames still burned on the outskirts of the destroyed area until checked at a small stream in the east end of the city.

The greatest loss occurred in the lumber yards and the cotton compresses. Forty-five thousand bales of cotton were burned, this alone making a loss of \$2,000,000.

The origin of the fire is not definitely established, but the flames started in a cottage, being then blown to neighboring houses; and within half an hour a great area of small cottages was in flames. Then the fire spread to the manufacturing plants bordering on the cottages and boarding houses.

The firemen abandoned the attempts to check the flames in the residence and warned the householders, thus averting possible loss of life. Hundreds fled to the streets in their night clothes and were quickly cared for in the other residential districts. The firemen finally made a stand at the small stream which separates the eastern end of the city, where the fire raged, from the main section, and they succeeded in keeping the fire from leaping the stream except in one or two places, where it was quickly extinguished. Many persons were hurt, but as far as can be learned, none fatally.

After the checking of the flames, the burned area stretched away for at least a mile and a half, while at points it was quarter of a mile wide. Nothing in that district was saved.

THREE VERMONT DIRECTORS

Of Connecticut Valley Waterways Association.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 21.—At the annual convention of the Connecticut Valley Waterways association here yesterday, the scope of the organization was enlarged to take in the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The association has for its object the general improvement of the Connecticut river, the conservation of the forests among which it springs, and the construction of reservoirs at its head with the object of diminishing the spring floods.

Congressman Thomas S. Sisson of Mississippi warned the association that Congress was through granting waterway improvements because of political reasons.

Not a dollar, he said, would be granted by Congress for waterway improvements unless it was for strictly a business proposition. Congress, he said, was through making grants for the furthering of political ends.

Among the other speakers were Philip W. Ayers, state forester of New Hampshire; W. G. McKee of Springfield, Mass.; and Gov. Simon E. Baldwin, E. H. Hooker of Hartford was elected president.

The directors for Vermont are G. A. Chedel, White River Junction; A. F. Hawes, Burlington; and R. L. Taylor, Norwich.

For New Hampshire: H. F. Pearson, Hanover; Winston Churchill, Cornish; and P. W. Ayers, Concord.

The convention was brought to a close last night with a banquet.

OPERATED ON HIMSELF.

Los Angeles Doctor Started To Remove Appendix But Gave Way To Others.

San Francisco, Feb. 21.—Dr. Bertram E. Alden, chief surgeon of the French hospital here, carried out in part last Sunday, his theory that self-operation for appendicitis is not impossible.

On diagnosing his symptoms, Dr. Alden called in his professional friends as witnesses. In the operating room he injected the spinal anæsthesia, which left his mind clear and gave him the control of his arms.

He made the necessary abdominal cuts, but at this point the matter was deemed too serious for experiment and two fellow surgeons completed the operation, removing the appendix, while Dr. Alden remained an interested witness of their operations. Dr. Alden is reported to be rapidly recovering.

ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

Theodore N. Vail Is Said To Have Taken Lease of Lyndon Institute Property.

Lyndonville, Feb. 21.—Announcement was made yesterday that O. D. Mathewson of Barre, Vt., principal of the Barre high school, has been engaged as principal of the Lyndon institute here. He will assume charge at the end of the school year.

It is also said on good authority that T. N. Vail, who established the agricultural department of the school has taken a lease of the Lyndon institute property and will assume full responsibility for its operation.

ROOSEVELT PRAISED
LA FOLLETTE, LEADER

Because He Started Practical Workers and Thinkers in Wisconsin Toward Turning That State Into An "Experimental Laboratory of Wise Governmental Action."

Columbus, O., Feb. 21.—"Big business," the fitness of the American people for government, the recall of judges, and the progress of the progressive legislation in Wisconsin instituted by and furthered by Senator Robert M. La Follette, when he was governor, were topics discussed by Theodore Roosevelt in an address to-day before the Ohio constitution convention here.

Roosevelt chose as his subject, "A Charter of Democracy."

Of what he termed "Big Business," Colonel Roosevelt had this to say: "The anti-trust law does good insofar as it can be invoked against combinations which really are monopolies or which restrict production or which artificially raise prices. But insofar as its workings are uncertain or as it threatens corporations which have not been guilty of anti-social conduct, it does harm. There should be a fixed governmental policy which shall clearly define and punish wrong-doing and give in advance full information to any man as to just what he can and just what he cannot legally and properly do."

As to the fitness of the American people for self-government, Colonel Roosevelt said:

"Many eminent lawyers believe that the American people are not fitted for popular government and that it is necessary to keep the judiciary 'independent' of the majority of the people. I take absolute issue with all those who hold such a position."

Of the recall of judges, he said:

"The question is one of expediency merely. Each community has the right to try the experiment for itself in whatever shape it pleases. I do not believe in adopting the recall save as a last resort when it has become clearly evident that no other course will achieve the desired result."

Following Senator La Follette a number of practical workers and thinkers in Wisconsin have turned that state into an experimental laboratory of wise government action in aid of social and industrial justice. They have initiated that kind of progressive government which means only the preservation of true democracy but the extension of true democracy into industrialism as well as into politics."

Mr. Roosevelt said in part:

"The people have nothing whatever to fear from giving any public servant power so long as they retain their own power to hold him accountable for his use of the power they have delegated to him. You will recall the ancient law where you elect only a few men, and where each man has his definite duties and responsibilities, and is obliged to work in the open, so that the people know who he is and what he is doing, and having the information that will enable them to hold him to account for his stewardship."

"I believe in providing for direct nomination by the people, including therein direct preferential primaries for the election of delegates to the national nominating conventions. I believe in the election of United States senators by direct vote. I believe in the initiative and referendum, which should be used not to destroy representative government, but to correct it whenever it becomes defective."

"I believe that the initiative and referendum should be used, not as substitutes for representative government, but as methods of making such government really representative. Action by the initiative or referendum ought not to be the normal way of legislation; but the power to take it should be provided in the constitution, so that if the representative body fails truly to represent the people on some matter of sufficient importance to rouse popular interest, then the people shall have in their hands the facilities to make good the failure."

"And I urge you not to try to put constitutional fetters on the legislature, as so many constitution-makers have recently done. Such action on your part would invite the courts to render negative every legislative act to better social conditions. Give the legislature an entirely free hand; and then provide by the initiative and referendum that the people shall have power to reverse or supplement the work of the legislature should it ever become necessary."

"As to the recall, I do not believe that there is any great necessity for it as regards short-term elective officers. There remains the question of the recall of judges."

"I do not believe in adopting the recall save as a last resort, when it has become clearly evident that no other course will achieve the desired result. But either the recall will have to be adopted or else it will have to be made much easier than it now is to get rid of not merely of a bad judge, but of a judge who, however virtuous, has grown so out of touch with social needs and facts that he is unfit longer to render good service on the bench. It is nonsense to say that impeachment meets the difficulty. In actual practice we have found that impeachment does not work, that unfit judges stay on the bench in spite of it, and, indeed, because of the fact that impeachment is the only remedy that can be used against them."

"A quicker, a more summary, remedy is needed, some remedy at least as summary and as drastic as that embodied in the Massachusetts constitution. And whenever it is found in actual practice that such remedy does not give the needed results, would unhesitatingly adopt the recall."

ILL BUT SHORT TIME.

Russell W. Taft, Clerk of Burlington City Court, Dead.

Burlington, Feb. 21.—Russell W. Taft, clerk of the Burlington city court, and an attorney, died to-day after a short illness with bronchitis. He was 33 years of age, the only son of the late Judge R. S. Taft of the Vermont supreme court. An autopsy was performed this afternoon to determine the cause of death.

Mr. Taft was born in Burlington and was graduated from Burlington high school and the university of Vermont. He was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1899. Besides his law, he had done some literary work. He leaves his mother, his wife and one son.

LEFT DYING
BY ROBBERSR. E. Shearer, a Well Known
Artist, Victim of Thugs

HIS SKULL WAS FRACTURED

Assault of Shearer Took Place at Corner of Broadway and 40th Street in New York Early To-day, When Robbers Threw Him into Cab.

New York, Feb. 21.—Three thugs attacked R. E. Shearer, a well-known artist, at the corner of Broadway and 40th street early to-day. They threw him into a cab, assaulted him and then robbed him of his jewelry and thirty dollars in money. After committing these acts, the men threw Shearer into the basement of a small shop, where he later was found.

At the Bellevue hospital, where he was taken, the surgeons said that the victim would probably die. He sustained a fracture of the skull in the encounter with the men. There is no clue to the identity of the three.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENES.

To Avert Threatened Coal Strike in the United Kingdom.

London, Feb. 21.—The government last night intervened in the coal dispute which threatens to cause a stoppage of work in the mines throughout the United Kingdom, involving not less than 800,000 miners. After the subject had been discussed at a cabinet meeting, Premier Asquith addressed a letter to the representatives of the coal owners and miners, requesting them to meet him and some of his colleagues at the foreign office on Thursday next, in order to endeavor to arrange a basis of settlement. He added that the industrial council had advised the convening of such a meeting.

The premier states that the government hoped that a means would be found by direct negotiation between the parties concerned to avert the disaster of a national stoppage of the coal trade, which would be a serious mistake in demanding the return of their children and agreed that their welfare would have been better assured had they remained in Barre. The youngsters evidently told their parents of the excellent treatment received during their short sojourn in the Granite city, and Mrs. Colomi found ready words to voice her appreciation for the manner in which they were housed and fed while here. The message rang with genuine regret at the deplorable error which had led the father to wire for his sons, and it was even intimated that to Barre, should the idea meet with the favor of the local committee.

According to the sentiment expressed by the committee members this morning, however, it is not likely that the brothers Colomi will be again brought to this city. Antonio Broggi, who accompanied the pair to Lawrence, is expected home this evening.



HON. JOSEPH A. DEBOER
Who Addressed Barre Audience Last Evening.

REGRET CALLING BOYS HOME

According To Telegram Sent By Mother of Lawrence Youngsters.

A sequel to the telegram which members of the Italian committee in charge of the Lawrence children received yesterday, advising them to return one of their charges, alleged to have been taken from home without the consent of his father, came, last night, in the shape of a message to Mrs. A. Conti, also a member of the committee. The message was sent by the mother of the two boys, Antonio and Guido Colomi, who were returned to Lawrence on the 12:25 train yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Colomi averred that she had made a serious mistake in demanding the return of her children and agreed that their welfare would have been better assured had they remained in Barre. The youngsters evidently told their parents of the excellent treatment received during their short sojourn in the Granite city, and Mrs. Colomi found ready words to voice her appreciation for the manner in which they were housed and fed while here. The message rang with genuine regret at the deplorable error which had led the father to wire for his sons, and it was even intimated that to Barre, should the idea meet with the favor of the local committee.

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MORE CHILDREN MAY COME

A. Broggi, Who Returned With Two, May Come Home With 15.

Editor, Times: A telegram from A. Broggi, the Barre man who went to Lawrence to take back the two Colomi children, states that the parents, when they saw their boys back, cried. They excused themselves to A. Broggi for their action, having been misled by false statements made by someone who they think are detectives working for the mill owners.

The telegram adds also that there are 15 more children that are willing to come to Barre. Any family who wishes to take care of them can do so by applying to G. Miami, 489 North Main street, or R. Clardi, Co-operative store, Granite street.

The committee hope that the families who have already asked for children and could not be satisfied for some reason, will apply again; also, the committee wish to openly apologize to those who were refused the care of Lawrence children, for the mistake made with the refusal by our part.

For the committee,
G. Miami.

NO CHANGE AT LAWRENCE

And Number of Operatives at Work Was About the Same as Yesterday.

Lawrence, Mass., Feb. 21.—There was no change in the strike situation early to-day, and the number of operatives in the textile mills was about the same as yesterday.

DEATH OF GEORGE GEAKE.

Born in Canada, He Had Lived Here For Twenty-Two Years.

The death of George Geake occurred at his home, 194 South Main street, last evening at 7 o'clock, after a lingering illness of bronchial asthma. Besides his wife, Mr. Geake leaves a daughter, Miss Gertrude Geake, aged 18 years, and two sons, Clarence and Clyde, ages 14 and 6 years, respectively. Four sisters and eight brothers also survive as follows: Mrs. H. R. Suitor of Graniteville, Mrs. Kimball Chynoweth of Williamstown, Mrs. George Elliott of Alford, Can., Mrs. Adam Elliott of Thetford Mines, P. Q., John Geake of Black Lake, P. Q., Robert Geake of Thetford Mines, P. Q., Walter and David Geake of Westerville, William and Thomas Geake of Graniteville, Henry Geake of Barre, Can., and James Geake of Barre.

Mr. Geake was born in Canada in 1864. He came to Barre twenty-two years ago and had lived in this vicinity continuously during that time. His marriage to Miss Susan Suitor took place in Barre December 24, 1891. Mr. Geake was a member of Clan Gordon, No. 12, O. S. C., and also belonged to the First Baptist church in this city. The deceased was a quarryman by occupation.

A short prayer service will be held at the house Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, after which the funeral will be held at the First Baptist church at 2:30 o'clock, the pastor, Rev. George H. Holt, officiating. The burial will take place in Hope cemetery.

Important Notice.

Let every man who does not want the open saloon in Barre this year see to it that he is properly registered. You cannot vote on March 5 unless you are. Attend to this, at the meeting of the board of civil authority in the city court room this evening. Make sure of your vote.

Temperance Committee.

HE FAVORS
CHANGES IN
TAX LAWSJoseph A. DeBoer Would Have
Flat Tax Rate on Intangibles.ALSO IN FAVOR OF
DIRECT PRIMARIESHas Modified His Views Since
He Advocated Abolishment
of Offsets in 1908.

Nearly six hundred people gathered in the opera house last evening when Joseph A. DeBoer of Montpelier, candidate for the gubernatorial nomination in the coming Republican state convention, spoke for nearly an hour and a half on state issues. The speaker was introduced by Senator John W. Gordon, who stated that Mr. DeBoer would himself give the best introduction to the remarks which would follow. At the mention of the speaker's name, the house rang with applause and again at the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. DeBoer received a hearty ovation. The audience paid marked attention to the discussion of various issues from start to finish. Broggi's orchestra of five pieces played selections before and after the address.

Mr. DeBoer opened his speech with a refutation of the statement already made that he was a purist, idealist or aristocrat. He told of his peasant birth in a small town in the Netherlands and of his emigration when but seven years old, to Albany, N. Y. His stepfather, who was a blacksmith, had ordered that the foster son should follow the honorable occupation of the anvil. Until the age of nineteen, he also considered such a course as the only one of his destiny; but at that age new channels of development were revealed and thence onward his eyes were fixed on different ends. Working as a newsboy and express messenger on the streets of Albany, he yet found time to seek the companionship of the English grammar and other literature. After mastering the tongue of his adopted country, the opportunity for enlarging his activities became greater and he was later enabled to attend secondary schools and afterwards Dartmouth college. In partially repudiating the assertion that he was an aristocrat, Mr. DeBoer said that no man had suffered or sacrificed to a greater degree in acquiring an education.

To further offset the accusation that he was a purist or idealist, Mr. DeBoer submitted that he had many times accepted the call of Vermont to service in her interests and welfare. When a commission was formed to examine the merits of the late ex-Gov. Bell, Mr. DeBoer responded to the invitation to act in the investigation and performed to the best of his ability the exhaustive inquiry and examination that was later to completely vindicate the governor from any suspicion of fraudulent practices or negligence. As one of a committee of three, he later helped establish Vermont's splendid auditing system. There was the principle laid down that all money paid over to officials of the state should be accompanied by a warrant from the auditor, who in turn, should satisfy himself that its expenditure was justifiable.

When Walter E. Ranger, then superintendent of schools, proposed that Vermont's share of the war claim appropriation of \$200,000 should be diverted to the establishing of an endowment for the everlasting use and benefit of the common schools, Mr. DeBoer was among the first to recognize the wisdom of such a course and vigorously opposed others who asserted that the money should be used to stave off a direct state tax. Latterly he worked two years on a commission appointed to carry out Superintendent Ranger's plan. Referring to the wisdom of using the fund for this purpose, Mr. DeBoer believed that its benefits should accrue more to the common schools in decadent towns where the schools are said to be moribund. There are said to be more than a hundred such small towns in Vermont, and Mr. DeBoer claims that academics and universities now deriving income from such a source should gladly relinquish their share in favor of schools in the back districts where the need for efficiency in greater degree is a crying one. In addition to serving his home city as a representative in the legislature and Washington county as a senator, Mr. DeBoer also told of delivering the historical address at the Jamestown exposition, an undertaking which involved considerable time and effort.

All of these acts of service in behalf of the state, he urged, could be used to deny the allegation that he was idealistic in his views. With the exception of the per diem pay of the representative and senator and a very few other minor emoluments, his work had been performed in the sustaining belief that the state would be the better for his efforts and for no other reward.

About His Candidacy.

Concerning the requests frequently made that he go before the convention as a candidate for governor, Mr. DeBoer stated frankly that such overtures were invariably declined because he did not care to owe his nomination or election to a system, whose official slate was made up at a secret session of a few men not truly representing the people. It was a curious fact, he said, that only one man had put the question squarely before him in connection with this year's contest for the nomination. With reference to his final acceptance, Mr. DeBoer said that he returned last fall from a western business trip to face a request from Montpelier citizens

(Continued on second page.)

PRE-LENTEN FESTIVITIES

Held Last Night and Were Quite Well Attended.

A pre-Lenten dance was given by the "Ladies" at Miles' hall last night in the form of a masquerade. There were about eighty couples in attendance and the most of these were costumed. Milkmaids, oriental girls, cowgirls, cowboys and clowns were very much in evidence. The hall was decorated with red, white and blue streamers in an artistic manner. The Barre opera house orchestra furnished music for the dance.

Miss Nathane Ostlund, who was awarded the first prize for the women, the prize being four glass decanters, was gaily to represent Day. Harry Jones, portraying Night, received a nice jackknife for the best costume that the strong sex could show. Alfred Anderson won the consolation prize, which was a nigger doll. He was dressed as a Dutchman. The committee in charge of the affair was as follows: Misses Crissie Casson, Maud Wyke, Hazel Keith. The judges, who awarded the prizes were: Robert Cruickshank, Miss Mamie Minnie, Mrs. Charles Williams.

Around seventy-five couples gathered in the Woodman hall in the Bolster block last night to make the best of the final opportunity for dancing before laying aside the "light fantastic" for a period of forty days. The dance was held under the auspices of the Clark dancing school, music for the occasion being furnished by Riley's orchestra. The hall was newly decorated with ever paper, the color scheme being red and white. The stage on which the orchestra sat was completely covered with ferns and artificial palms. Refreshments of punch and wafers were served by a committee in charge of John Hale during intermission. The committee in charge of the dance was as follows: Percy Clark, Douglass Clark and Roy McCarthy.

WOMAN WAIVED EXAMINATION

And Was Bound Over To County Court, But Didn't Furnish Bail.

Mrs. Delia Bianchi, who a short time ago was arrested on a warrant charging her with a statutory offense, appeared before Judge H. W. Scott in city court this morning and waived examination. She was bound over to the next term of county court in the sum of \$500, in default of which she was taken to the county jail in Montpelier this forenoon to await trial. The respondent was represented by M. M. Gordon and State's Attorney J. Ward Carver acted as the prosecuting officer.

Achille Bassi, who is held as one of the principal witnesses in the case, is held under \$500 bail to make his appearance on the stand when the case comes to trial in county court. Bassi secured bail this morning and was released.

FOUND ASLEEP IN CELL.

Second Man In Few Days To Place Himself Under Arrest.

Wilford Amyatt was arraigned before Judge H. W. Scott in city court this morning on a charge of intoxication. The respondent told the court that he had lived recently in Woodstock, Conn., and had come to Vermont on a short time ago. He pleaded guilty to a first offense and was fined \$5 and costs of \$4.29, but he was unable to pay. An officer took him to the county jail in Montpelier this forenoon to serve the alternate sentence of 20 days. Amyatt, like other offenders who have been brought into court lately, evidently felt the call of justice and voluntarily came to the police station last night. Officer Edwin McLeod found the man asleep in one of the cells shortly before midnight and placed him under arrest.

BANK DEPOSITS GROW.

Two and a Half Million Increase in Vermont During Six Months.

Newport, Feb. 21.—Bulletin No. 5, issued by Vermont Bank Commissioner Frank C. Williams, shows that the deposits in Vermont's mutual savings banks and savings banks and trust companies increased \$2,510,504.46 during the six months ending December 30, 1911. The total deposits on the latter date were \$76,447,360.43, and the surplus and profits amounted to \$4,409,280.25, a gain of \$65,182.02. The resources of the banks showed a net increase of \$2,729,563.62, the total being \$83,226,924.05 on December 30, last.

TALK OF THE TOWN

E. N. Ellis was a business visitor in Waterbury yesterday.

Miss Mary Even of Hale street is detained from her duties at the F. D. Ladd store by illness.

To-day being Ash Wednesday, special services were held in St. Mary's church and at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Goddard seminary's second team will play the Episcopal Athletic club at basketball in the Church street gymnasium to-night.

The condition of Marjorie Hall, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Hall of Keene, place, who has been seriously ill, remains about the same.

Nicolas Murray, until recently a clerk at Louis Romanis' store on Prospect street, has opened a meat market at the rear of Romanis' store.

Mrs. Louis Williams of Prospect street, who has been visiting with relatives at North Adams, Mass., for the past two months, returned to this city last night, coming to the city by a short agent of the New England division for the Clyde and Mallory steamship lines, was a business visitor in this city to-day.

The woman's missionary society of the Congregational church are to have a social and quilting at the church, corner Third and Washington streets, on Thursday afternoon. Supper will be served at 6 o'clock. A large attendance of the ladies is hoped for, as six quilts are to be tied. Each one is asked to bring something for the supper and to come as early as possible.

Eighteen young friends of Miss Hazel Russell made her a surprise visit at Monday, 188 Washington street, Monday evening, to celebrate her fourteenth birthday anniversary. During the evening games were played and refreshments of coffee, sandwiches, cake, wafers and candy were served. Miss Myrtle Grafton, in behalf of the company, presented Miss Hazel a box of initial stationery and ribbons. The party was in charge of Misses Myrtle Grafton and Irene Landers, and proved a very enjoyable affair.

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\$5,500 OUTLAY
FOR TRUCKAuthorized in Resolution
Which Was Passed to State Library

BY BARRE CITY COUNCIL

Action Taken at Regular Meeting Last Evening, There Being Little or No Opposition Expressed—Petition for New Truck Presented from South End.

After some discussion, some moments of indecision and one unsuccessful attempt to adjourn, the Barre city council last night ordered to a second reading a resolution appropriating \$5,500 for the purchase of a combination automobile fire truck for the central station. This action followed the presentation of a petition from ten granite manufacturing firms in the south end of the city for a truck, and it was preceded by a vote to change the four-inch water main leading from the street to the Jones Bros. plant in the north end to a six-inch pipe, thus affording better protection for that huge plant.

The petition from the south end, around which the movement for the auto truck centered, read as follows:

"In view of the large number of men employed in the granite plants at the extreme end of the city and the heavy loss it would be to the workmen, the undersigned granite manufacturers in the south end feel that our fire protection would be greatly increased and possibility of serious fire consequently reduced if the city possessed an auto fire truck. "So much depends upon the quick arrival of the firemen at a conflagration that nothing should be left undone to shorten the time between the fire station and the more distant granite plants."

The petition was signed by Barclay Bros., Robins Bros., J. P. Corsick & Son, Martinson Estate Co., by John Nicholson, Littlejohn, Odgers & Milne, Caswell, Wetmore Co., James C. Mortimer, Alex. Milne, E. C. Glysson and George Stratton Co.

"Choice Narrowed to Two."

Alderman Rossi, chairman of the fire committee, started the talk in favor of the fire truck, saying that already another similar petition had been made by manufacturers in the north end and that the two petitions represented a good many thousands of dollars. He said the committee had looked over machines in Boston, Brookline, Newton, Springfield, Holyoke, New York and Burlington, and they had narrowed the list down to two machines; but the "makes" of the two he did not mention. Alderman Rossi then went on to say that the horses couldn't stand the pace always; that they had dropped in the street on a second call to the far north end on the same forenoon.

Sudden Switch to North End Discussion.

After his remarks, there developed a controversy as to the distances from the central fire station to the extreme ends of the city; and Alderman Willey brought out a notebook which contained statistics, showing it is 5,000 feet to Barclay Bros' in the south end and 7,300 to the end of Willey street in the north end.

Alderman Thurston wanted to know if the conditions in the south end were anything like the conditions at Jones Bros'. He had been surprised at the poor fire protection at Jones Bros'. He thought there ought to be a hydrant nearer the plant than 400 feet and the four-inch main from the street should be a six-inch pipe to give better pressure.

Alderman Willey asserted at this point that the fire committee had voluntarily taken up the matter of better fire protection for Jones Bros', but that nothing had been done as they were waiting for some definite statement from the company. However, he made the motion that the four-inch main be substituted for the six-inch main just as soon as the conditions are favorable; and the motion was carried.

A Few Moments of Silence.

That done, it looked as if the auto fire truck proposition was sidetracked for the time-being, as no one said anything when Mayor Mutch asked if there was any further business. The silence became monotonous, and Alderman Willey moved to adjourn. The motion was put, and there was one yes and two noes. Mayor Mutch expressed a desire for a fuller vote, and on the second try there was no doubt of the killing of the motion.

And still they said nothing, whereas the mayor remarked that there was no use sitting there if they weren't going to do something.

It was Alderman Rossi who filled the breach; and he started the others to talking. Alderman Brown and Alderman Ward expressed themselves in favor of the automobile truck. The former thought some people considered all there is to Barre is the blocks on Main street. But where would the blocks be, he said, if it were not for the industries outside them?

Alderman Rossi wanted someone empowered to purchase the truck; and there a dispute as to the nature of the motion passed ten months ago authorizing the purchase. The record was brought out, and they showed that on April 28, 1911, the council voted to accept the recommendation of the fire committee favoring the installing of a motor-driven truck and ordered the recommendation carried out.

That information having been given, Alderman Rossi moved that the city clerk be instructed to draw up a resolution appropriating \$5,500 for the purchase. The motion prevailed, with no votes in opposition but apparently with some not voting. According to the instruction, City Clerk Mackay drew up the resolution, and Alderman Brown moved that it be passed to a second reading. Alderman Brown's motion was

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